

LaGuardia Community College
Minutes for the College Senate Meeting
September 11, 2024
2:15-4:30 pm
E-500 and Zoom

In-Person Votes

Cristy Bruns (English), Jean Buckley Lockhart (Counseling), Aimeelyn Calandria (Division of Institutional Advancement), Maria Cook (President's Office), Erika Correa (Division of Adult & Continuing Education), Donniece Davis-Cooper (Division of Student Affairs), Douglas DiCarlo (At-Large Instructional Staff), Lisa Flores (Health Sciences), Dianne Gordon Conyers (Library), Abdul Hashim (At-Large Instructional Staff), Sada Hye Jaman (Business and Technology), John Jara (SGA), Rebekah Johnson (ELA), Karamvir Kaur (Division of Administration), Jill Kehoe (Social Science), Shannon Lund (At-Large Instructional Staff), Margaret O'Sullivan (Non-Instructional Staff), Anthony Pappas (Alumni Association), Leslie Scamacca (Academic Affairs), Roman Senkov (Natural Sciences), Patricia Sokolski (Humanities), Elizabeth Streich (Division of Communications and External Affairs), Sandra Sze (MEC), John Toland (Faculty Council), Odin Wright (At-Large Adjunct)

Online Votes

Annette Hamilton (Division of Enrollment Management)

Present In-Person

Randy Changoo, Mary DiGangi, Misun Dokko, Lloyd Klein, Evelyn Lowmark, Alexis McLean, Thomas Onorato

Present Online

Bojana Blagojevic, Loretta Capuano Vella, Luke Cardaio, Sonya Evariste, Hugo Fernandez, Tawanikka Smith, Derek Stadler, Joseph Taveras, Lilla Töke, Regina Varin-Mignano, Charis Victory, Dilrukshan Wijesinghe

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at approximately 2:20 pm by Chairperson Cristy Bruns.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda for the September 11, 2024 Senate meeting was made by Senator Johnson. This was seconded by Senator Davis-Cooper. The motion passed and agenda was approved.

III. Approval of the Minutes from June 5, 2024

The minutes were approved without corrections.

IV. Invitation to Vice President for Student Affairs Alexis McLean and Dr. Bojana Blagojevic for Report on Student Conduct Working Group

Vice President for Student Affairs Alexis McLean and Social Science Chair Bojana Blagojevic presented the work of the Working Group on Student Conduct and Academic Integrity. The working group examined current practices and developed new processes that address student behavior that violates the college's community standards. They developed flow charts depicting how student behavior and academic integrity complaints should be dealt with by the college. The Senate will be tasked with creating the Academic Integrity Committee that will handle academic integrity complaints. This work will be led by a Chief Academic Integrity Officer, a faculty member to be named by President Adams. A subcommittee on educational outreach created a series of brown bag workshops that will provide information to the college community. The working group plans to continuously assess feedback and update documents/procedures as needed. Goals include reducing the number of student behavior and academic integrity complaints, educating campus stakeholders, and improving the feeling of safety on campus.

Senators questioned the role of the ombudsman in the new processes. VP McLean explained that the position will be eliminated, believing that students previously referred to the ombudsman could instead be assisted by the referring party. New processes will involve a culture shift of how to handle student behavior and academic integrity complaints.

V. Chair's Report

Vice Chancellor Wendy Hensel proposed changes to the CUNY By-Laws. An ad-hoc UFS working group, including Chair Bruns, offered feedback that was largely incorporated into Hensel's second draft, but continue to press for additional changes and clarification.

Chair Bruns and the Executive Committee proposed to change Senate voting procedure. Previously, as decided by Chair Bruns, Senators had voting priority over Alternate Senators regardless of attendance modality (online/in-person). Beginning with the 2024-2025 academic year, Alternate Senators present in-person would have voting priority over Senators present online.

Provost Gastic Rosado offered edits to the Duties and Election of Department Chairperson document previously approved by the Senate. The edits are minor and non-substantive, but will be evaluated by the Chairs Council. Any changes will be shared with the Senate before President Adams sends the document to the CUNY Board of Trustees.

A new Title IX Coordinator, Rebecca Jean, and a new Title IX Investigator, Helen Skirchak, were hired by the college. They will start on September 13, 2024. Searches continue for a new Chief Diversity Officer and a new Executive Director of DEI.

Chair Bruns met with President Adams regarding the Strategic Plan. Led by facilitator Kimberly Wright, the college sought out input on Eight Pillars of Student Success. Information will be synthesized and harmonized with other campus inquiries (Middle

States, COACHE, Staff Engagement Survey, etc.). A report will ultimately come to Senate.

A Senate vote on curriculum will be needed between the September 11th and October 9th meetings. The CUNY Transfer Initiative asked for changes to the Engineering Program which need to be submitted shortly. The Senate will review materials and vote via email.

VI. Committee Reports

a. Standing Committees

- i. Committee on Committees (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- ii. Curriculum Committee (Dilrukshan Wijesinghe, Chair)
Chair Wijesinghe provided a comprehensive report of all curricula approved over the past year.
- iii. The Academic Standing Committee (Lilla Töke, Chair)
Last year, the ASC revised and drafted several policies including the academic forgiveness policy, the non-degree/visiting student policy, and various online learning policies. They helped revise the Academic Calendar and Course Catalog and held workshops for the college community. The ASC continues to work on the issue of academic integrity. Check out the committee's new website.
- iv. Committee on Campus Affairs (Evelyn Lowmark and Anthony Pappas, Co-Chairs)
The Committee on Campus Affairs drafted the Children on Campus policy and is working on drafting a new Visitor's policy. The committee is also addressing the issue of First Amendment auditors on campus and is seeking feedback from the college community regarding which spaces should be deemed private. The committee looks forward to a regular meeting schedule in the upcoming year.
- v. The Committee of Faculty (vacant, Chair)
Former Chair Daniel Gertner left the college and is therefore unable to deliver a year-end report.
- vi. The Committee on Professional Development (Deborah McMillan-Coddington and Derek Stadler, Co-Chairs)
Co-Chair Stadler reported on the committee's successful in-service training seminars and workshops (community-based learning, navigating academic book publishing, navigating the digital frontier, online learning and participation), Opening Sessions, and the Ruhma Choudhury Research Colloquium. The Faculty and Staff Excellence Awards subcommittee worked on developing criteria for awards.

- vii. The Budget and Finance Committee (Patricia Sokolski, Chair)
The committee consulted with administration and various committees regarding budget and finance issues. Budget information is now included in Campus Updates.
- viii. The Committee of Staff and Alumni (Donniece Davis-Cooper and Karamvir Kaur, Co-Chairs)
The committee worked on improving transparency, specifically on key areas of the website, and offered feedback regarding the Staff Excellence Awards criteria.
- ix. The Committee of Students (Vacant, Chair)
Nothing to report.
- x. The Committee on Elections (Vacant, Chair)
Senator Sokolski listed the seats up for reelection in 2024. Please encourage faculty, staff, and students to run. Noting a vacancy, Odin Wright was appointed At-Large Adjunct Alternate Senator.
- xi. The Executive Committee (Cristy Bruns, Chair)
See Chair's report.
- xii. Transfer Committee (Alexa Duque and Misun Dokko, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- xiii. Food Insecurity, Justice, and Community Need Committee (Rebekah Johnson, Chair)
The FIJCNC supported the LaGuardia Humanitarian Initiative's food justice themed activities this past year. They are looking for members interested in leadership positions.

b. Ad Hoc Committees

- i. IT Advisory Committee (Jaime Riccio and Ian McDermott, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- ii. History Committee (Charles Keyes, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iii. Online Learning Committee (Joshua Tan and Michele De Goeas-Malone, Co-Chairs)
Nothing to report.
- iv. Senate Assessment & Review Committee (Leslie Scamacca, Chair)
With the end of the 2023-2024 Senate year complete, the work of the Senate Assessment & Review Committee will begin. The committee will look at

quantitative data regarding recruitment, elections, and staffing of committees.

c. Non-Senate Committees

- i. Advising Council (Jean Buckley Lockhart, Senate Representative)
Senator Buckley Lockhart is looking for a replacement as Senate Representative on the Advising Council.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. New Business

Senator Sokolski would like the on-campus Starbucks to offer smaller sized beverages.

XIV. Announcements

None.

XV. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm.

Next Meeting: October 9, 2024 (Senate Transition Meeting)